DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ALL ITS VARIOUS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

Honor waits, o'er all the earth, The art that calls her harvests forth.—BRYANT.

VOL. I. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1849. NO. 21.

S. W. COLE, EDITOR. QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. J. NOURSE, PROPRIETOR.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION

OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This show took place last week; and considering the great scarcity of fruit, it was very good. The exhibition of apples was small, not so much from there not being a plenty of good specimens for a large show, as from the great scarcity with those who usually take much pains to contribute largely to the fair. In pears, it was rather limited; but so far as it extended, it was excellent, as many dishes were very fine. The exhibition of peaches was excellent, notwithstanding the crop is very light in this region. In grapes raised under glass, it was very fine: one bunch, raised by J. F. Allen, Esq., Salem, weighed four and a half pounds. There was a variety of fine plums.

In vegetables, the show was the best that has ever been made by this society, at least for many years. It was both extensive and excellent in appearance.

The show of flowers was very good: there were various beautiful and some splendid bouquets, and some rare specimens of flowers. The crimson cockscombs, exhibited by A. M. Sumner, Watertown, were the largest of this class that we ever saw, measuring over a foot across them. They attracted great attention.

Although the exhibition has been, in some respects, less attractive than usual, owing to natural disadvantages, beyond the control of the most skilful, we are happy to learn that cultivators are continuing their exertions, determined to do their part in promoting the cause of horticultural improvement, and their labors will usually be crowned with success.

WORCESTER CATTLE SHOW.

This exhibition took place on Wednesday of last week. On the whole, it was excellent. The day was fine, and the concourse of people was immense. On the evening preceding, all the public houses in the place were full; and on the morning of the exhibition, long trains of cars literally packed full of passengers, in many cases far more than could be seated, were seen coming in from every direction: extra trains were run, and freight cars were put in requisition, and rigged for the accommodation of passengers; and besides, there were many who came in their own or other vehicles. When about half as many attended the shows at Worcester, the number was estimated at eight or ten thousand.

In the ploughing match, there were only a few competitors, only ten teams being on trial, which is a small number for a county that produces a larger number and better teams, and far more ploughs, than any other in the Union, with the best of men to manage teams and ploughs. With all the materials in abundance for a great as well as good ploughing match, there ought to be forty or fifty competitors. But what there was of this match was excellent. The teams were fine and well trained, and the ploughmen skilful. They went about their work in a quiet way, and attended to it like a discreet farmer in his own field. There was no noise, nor hurrying. The work was done in the best manner, and of a good depth, though the stones at the bottom of the furrow were often troublesome. We hope that in future there will be more zeal in this cause.

The show of stock was both excellent and extensive. There were about one hundred pens of animals, mostly of neat cattle. They were of various breeds, and mixtures in many ways. This county still holds the lead in fine stock, and there is at present great attention paid to its improvement, so that it bids fair to sustain its well-deserved and high reputation. A Durham bull, one year old last March, owned by Hon. John Brooks, Princeton, weighed thirteen hundred and fifty pounds. We saw no horses at this exhibition, which is truly astonishing, considering the horse is regarded as one of our most useful and interesting animals, selling at a higher price than any others.

There were fine specimens of dairy productions; but the show in this department was rather limited for a county of so wide an extent and such abundant resources in this respect.

The show of machines and implements was fine; but the mechanics' fair, held at the same time, proba-

bly took a part of this department, and articles of domestic manufacture were shown in the mechanics' fair, or in the ladies' fair, held simultaneously. There was no formal address, and we did not attend the society's dinner, as our time was rather limited for visiting the various exhibitions in one day; and though a dinner might have been more interesting to us at the time, we thought that seeing was more in our line of duty as an editor. We understood that at the dinner table there were pithy speeches, and some sparklings of wit.

ANNUAL EXHIBITION

OF WORCESTER HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We visited this show, last week, and were highly gratified at the excellent display in some departments, particularly in peaches, as it gave evidence that we can cultivate this luscious fruit to advantage in New England, and furnish our markets with it in far better condition than those brought from the south and west.

The show of apples was good, and for a year of general scarcity, much better than we expected to see in any part of the country.

The exhibition of pears was rather limited; but there were many fine specimens, and among them the St. Michael appeared in perfection. It seems to be free from blast in that section, this season. The president, friend Earle, of the Spy, informed us that their show of pears was about as good as usual; excepting, heretofore, fruit-growers from this region had added much to it by their contributions. He also stated that some cultivators in Worcester had good assortments of excellent pears; but from being too busy, or some other cause, they had not brought forward their fruit.

The show of peaches, both in extent and appearance, in size and beauty, was equal to any that we ever saw. Among them were several new seedlings, very large and beautiful, and which the committee pronounced of superior quality.

There was a very good variety of plums, and generally of very good appearance.

But few grapes were shown, excepting native kinds, mostly of inferior quality.

The quince made a conspicuous and handsome appearance.

The show of flowers was very respectable, but not so varied and extensive as are the shows in large cities, around which are extensive greenhouses.

There was a very good exhibition of vegetables in some departments. The squash seemed to take the lead. There was a large number of superior size.

Although this society is in its infancy, it is succeeding remarkably well, and would compare favorably, in its exhibition, with those of mature age. It is exerting a very salutary influence in one of the first fruit regions in the country, by diffusing useful information, and stimulating cultivators to judicious action; and those who avail themselves of these advantages will reap a rich reward for their pains.

FAIR

OF THE WORCESTER COUNTY MECHANIC ASSOCIATION.

The second annual fair of this association opened last week. We were agreeably surprised to find the exhibition of a society, that had just started into existence, so extensive, various, and presenting articles of so much utility and taste. A large building, of many stories, was well filled with valuable productions of genius and skill. When we look at shows of this character, we think not only of the enterprise of one location, but we look upon it as a specimen of what is going on in our country, and upon its wide-spread influence, which, with the wonderful facilities for communication, is exercising a controlling power over the whole world for the general good of the human race.

It was highly gratifying to see all parts of this fair crowded with visitors, both from its salutary effect in diffusing information in the useful and fine arts, and for the liberal encouragement given to an institution in its early stages.

We saw in operation, in this fair, a glass pump, by Messrs. E. Tucker & Son, of Worcester. It showed clearly the principle of hydraulics in this particular. In a place not exposed to frost, and with careful management, this would doubtless be one of the best and most durable of pumps; and freezing is easily obviated during a cold night, by raising the handle and springing the under valve, so that the water recedes from the pump immediately.

Connected with this fair, on the outside of the building, were two hydraulic rams in operation, by Messrs. J. T. Curtis & Co. The water power was in leaden pipes, about one and one half inches in diameter, and the fall about four or five feet. Constant streams, of about one third or one half inch in diameter, were sent up about thirty feet high. This novel view of water running up hill attracted great attention, particularly as it is a matter of great practical utility.

AMERICAN ENTERPRISE.

Take the article of calicoes. We now monopolise the whole trade — a trade which, but a year since, the English had the whole control of. Very few cotton goods of this style are now imported at all, and we are fast getting the knack of making the finer dress muslins. Of mouslaine de laines, we probably manufacture, at a good profit too, far more than we import. Of cloths there is not one bale of English entered at the custom-house, where there were one hundred five years ago. It is true the English have found great competitors in the French and Germans, who, together with our own mills, have nearly driven every piece of English cloth out of the market.

The English are also losing their great hosiery trade with us, the Germans beating them most decidedly in this article. In fact, our English competitors are fast losing a market which they have had the almost exclusive monopoly of for years; and a steady perseverance on our part, not depending too much on government aid, but more on our natural energies, perseverance, and mechanical skill, will in time not only give us our "home market," but the markets of the world. — *N. Y. Jour. of Commerce.*

THE BUSH AND ROOT PULLER.

This implement greatly facilitates and expedites the labors of the farmer in clearing lands, and holds an important place with those cultivators who are thorough in their operations, and make their grounds clear for a tilled crop, or for mowing. With this implement, it is very convenient to fasten to bushes and roots, and any power in the team may be applied for their extraction. This saves the tedious process of digging around shrubs and roots, and preparing for fastening on chains, which often requires far more time than is necessary to complete the work with this simple and cheap implement.

ON GIVING CREDIT.

We intend to give credit for articles which we select; but we are liable to mistakes and omissions, for we often select good articles from papers in which there is no credit. Again, we see articles inserted in papers as though they were original in such papers, and we give a wrong credit. We may have seen the articles months before, but cannot recollect the origin of every one we see, and bear it along in our memory for months and years.

On our 263d page is an article credited to the Lancaster (Pa.) Farmer, that should be credited to the Albany Cultivator. It appeared in the former paper without credit, and as though it was new, and we credited it accordingly, not recollecting that it was in the latter paper six or eight months ago. On page 301 is a valuable article from the Albany Cultivator, which, by unintentional neglect, was not credited at the latter end, though in the beginning it is credited to The Cultivator, all the title which that paper assumes, but we choose to be more definite than the publisher himself, and assign the articles from that source to "a local habitation and a definite name." We hope that our friends will excuse these errors, which we intended to correct before.

No person has more reason for complaint than we, in this respect. Within nine months we have seen more than fifty of our articles going the rounds of the press without credit; in some cases, two or three articles in one paper. Sometimes this seemed almost excusable, as in the same papers were several articles that were credited, and the editors might think it would not appear well to credit five or six articles to one paper. We have been pleased to see that editors have extracted very liberally from our columns, but we shall be still more gratified if they will give due credit.

THE COMMON HEMLOCK FOR HEDGES.

Attention is now being directed to the common American hemlock as a substitute for the thorn and other deciduous shrubs, in hedges. It has been subjected to reiterated trials, it is said, in various localities where it is indigenous, and, in every instance, with the most entire and complete success. It has many things to recommend it; among the more prominent of which may be mentioned its great hardiness, and the slight injury, comparatively speaking, it receives from transplantation. It is also well adapted to almost every variety of soil, and will flourish with great luxuriance on ordinary lands without previous preparation or manure. Extensive lines of this beautiful hedge are to be seen in various sections of Western New York, where its cultivation has been attended, thus far, with the most astonishing success. As the tree is an evergreen, its appearance is necessarily, at all seasons, extremely ornamental, presenting, in its full, dense foliage, a most refreshing contrast to the dreary monotony of the winter scene, and adding, by its many attractive beauties, to the leafy glories of the spring, and the affluent summer months.

It is asserted, on reliable authority, that of all trees and shrubs yet applied for this purpose, it is the most certain of success; being less liable to injury from the ordinary evils which so frequently prove fatal to the thorn, the locust, and other cognate species of plants, and in no ways objectionable in consequence of root-sprouts, by which the above-named productions foul the contiguous soil, and produce a suburban progeny, extremely detrimental to cultivation, whether directed to the production of root crops, grain, or grass. We hope, ere long, to see this valuable, but hitherto neglected denizen of our forests, rendered extensively available for this most important use. It will come to our assistance in a "good time," if it comes now, when, from the increasing scarcity, and consequently increasing demand for fencing materials, the resources of the community are severely taxed to supply the costly demand. — *Selected.*

HOPE

A bright and beautiful bird is Hope; it comes to us 'mid the darkness, and sings the sweetest song when our spirits are saddest; and when the lone soul is weary, and longs to pass away, it warbles its sunniest notes, and tightens again the slender fibres of our hearts, that grief has been tearing away.

For the New England Farmer.

A NICE POTATO PATCH.

Mr. Editor: Having recently made a flying excursion through a section of the granite state, the interests of agriculture received a due share of my attention. It was indeed a flying excursion, for with the present well-arranged facilities for travelling in that direction, no other term would express the speed with which one may progress. Such is the perfection of these facilities, that it might seem that no further advance can be made therein, unless bales of merchandise and cars of men, women, and children, shall hereafter be transported on magnetic wires, as we now send billet-doux and price currents; a thing not very probable, but as much within the imaginings, as the other was twenty-five years ago.

However, my object is not to give an essay on the wonders of steam or electricity, or even of their consequents in the growth of villages and cities, as if under the influence of magic. Here, indeed, the field is ample, and is filled with incident surpassing the utmost limits of romance in the past age. What would then have been considered high-wrought fiction is beginning to appear tame and insipid, compared with the real wonders in science and art, now as familiar as household words. It is a truth which receives universal homage, that the human intellect is just waking up from a deep sleep — is just, as it were, bursting asunder a prison-house which bound it with a despotism as firm as the body may be enslaved by statutes, and chains, and bars of iron. We behold its achievements, but cannot, at first, feel that they are realities. We are half inclined, notwithstanding the evidence of our senses to the contrary, to suppose the whole a mere dream of delusion.

Nor is this effervescence of genius, if it may be so termed, confined to the use of steam, of magnetism, or mechanical power. The bosom of the earth, as if under some hitherto unknown spasmodic influence, is participating in kindred developments. It was feared that the eastern portion of our country was worn out and become worthless, like an old garment. Such is not the fact. We are beginning to witness results in agriculture as unexpected and as much surpassing calculation, as those in science generally and the mechanic arts, to which allusion has been made. Who, a few years since, would have dreamed of here raising forty tons of turnips, or eleven hundred bushels of carrots, on an acre of land? Who would have thought the means of fertilizing it so simple and so abundant? The processes of our fathers in agriculture were seemingly as inefficient as were those in machinery; and now the farmer who undertakes to produce corn, or hay, or esculent roots, with as little regard to fertilizing agents as they had, would be esteemed as much behind the age, as to transport his produce two hundred miles by an ox team requiring two full weeks, when he might do it in two days on a railroad, at a fourth part of the expense.

On reaching the capital of New Hampshire, knowing that Ex-Governor Hill, for the last ten years, has devoted himself mainly to agriculture, we were induced to call on him, to witness his success. This we did not doubt; for a man that once understood political management so well as he did, would be abundantly competent, if disposed, to cultivate the ground. We were not mistaken. Our anticipations were realized. We were richly paid for the delay occasioned. Governor Hill, like a man of sense, no more digs in the filth of politics. For the period named, he has done little of such labor, unless to pick a good bone that may have been thrown to him. Now, dear Whig reader, do not be alarmed. Isaac Hill, if a Democrat, is raising as good hay, and corn, and rye, and squashes, and potatoes, as any Whig in the state. Yes, according to recent calculation, he is raising this very year twice as many potatoes as are growing on the farm of Daniel Webster — good Whig potatoes, not a rotten one to be found in the whole field. We wish politicians generally would follow the example of these two gentlemen in the particular of which we are speaking.

We had no sooner exchanged civilities than an invitation was given to accompany him on an excursion over his farm. The invitation was of course accepted. In a few minutes, we were on a drive to his farm, lying mostly on the eastern side of the Merrimac River. His farm consists of three or four hundred acres of land — we were not particular to take notes, as we now wish we had done — perhaps a sixth part of the rich interval on the west bank of the river, and the balance of sandy pitch-pine land. The latter, till his own experiments with it, was deemed worthless for agricultural purposes, and cost him only about five dollars an acre, timber and all. The timber was worth more than the cost of the land. We believe it is five or six years since he began to cut the timber and to till the soil. Ten or fifteen acres annually yielded to the axe and the harrow, and a good crop of rye was the result. Succeeding to this, the plough with a span of horses, and a subsoil plough with six oxen, among the roots and stumps of trees, upturned and loosened the upper strata, to the depth of sixteen inches. A muck bed in the vicinity contributed freely its fertilizing properties, and good clover rewarded the enterprising proprietor for his labor. Next in order comes a crop of potatoes; and, it would be difficult for any one, who has not witnessed it, to realize, what skill and indomitable perseverance in agriculture can accomplish. Although we were delighted with his subsoil ploughing then in progress; with a large rye field; with several Indian corn fields; with barns filled with hay that would have elated the largest farmer in the country; yet we most admired his potato field, on this pine timber land, which we had known from childhood, and considered worthless.

Perhaps of this description of land there were under cultivation, in the same or contiguous enclosures, about sixty acres, and one third of it composing the potato patch in question. Our impression is, that no manure had been used on it, but a compost made in the ordinary manner, and a moderate quantity of African guano; yet, what potatoes! We pulled up samples here and there all over the field, and found an increase upon the seed of about twenty per cent. in weight, and in some cases numerically; that is, twenty new tubers for the single one used for seed. What he has already dug, and from the produce last year of an adjoining patch, he estimates his crop this year at four thousand bushels. As soon as harvested, they are to be conveyed to Boston by railroad, a distance of sixty miles, and deposited in cellars till demanded in the market, then yielding him, it is estimated, — such is their excellence, — at least one dollar per bushel; or four thousand dollars for the entire crop this season. What an example for the imitation of his neighbors and fellow-citizens! What an example, especially, for retiring politicians, and retiring merchants or professional gentlemen! Here, the wane of life, rich in varied experience, and with means to impart it to others, may continue, to its very termination, to bless the world; and hence, in the retrospect, to yield to those who do it the purest delights. And, by the increased mental and physical verdure acquired amidst rural avocations, they may add a large percentage to the number of their own years, as well as to their joys; thus making

human existence full to its very brim in useful labor and fruition, as God designed it should be.

He stated that, in round numbers, the labor bestowed on his farm this year costs about seven hundred and fifty dollars, in addition to the use of his teams, which, if he hired them, might be two hundred and fifty dollars; making, in all, one thousand dollars. His expenditure for manures was not given; but we hope that on the termination of the harvests, he will give a full and authentic account of his farming operations. Such accounts are of immense value to the community. By them others will be stimulated to make similar efforts. Our time was too short to avail ourselves of the statistics necessary for such an account. Our aim, on the present occasion, is only to call attention to the subject, and to show in what manner persons making a trip to the White Mountains or elsewhere, for health or pleasure, may collect and then disseminate agricultural knowledge. For ourselves we believe that observations similar to those here given, are among the most rational and useful means to promote the aim of the summer tourist; and surely they may be made subservient to the best interests of the country.

One word more. In the time of Queen Elizabeth, men of rank, to ornament their heads, wore heavy wigs, and to ornament their wrists and hands, they wore wide ruffles. Many of our old-school farmers, as if in imitation of that fashion, have allowed around their cultivated fields broad margins of brush wood and shrubs, doubtless for ornament; unless it be in kind charity to furnish a comfortable shelter for snakes, and skunks, and rabbits. In this matter, Governor Hill is an ultra radical. Instead of permitting such an ornament even on this sand land, about his potatoes, all is grubbed up; and, instead thereof, is a row of summer and autumn squash vines, which have furnished about fifty barrels of excellent fruit for Quincy Market.

FLEMING GROVE.

For the New England Farmer.

FALL PLOUGHING.

Mr. Editor: I believe it to be of great importance to have greensward broken up in the fall. The cool weather then gives strength to our teams, so that they can perform the same work in less time; besides, it being a season of comparative leisure with the farmer, time is not so valuable as in the spring. Another advantage of fall ploughing is, many kinds of soil are brought into a suitable condition for crops with less labor. By the action of the frost, clayey and other compact soils are more thoroughly and uniformly pulverized than they could be in any other way; and if the ploughing is performed in September, or by the 20th of October, which I think is the best time, the fermentation which the turf undergoes will do much towards destroying or lessening the strength and vitality of the roots of grass.

I am confident that lands are generally improved by deep ploughing, and more especially so in the fall. Unless the land has formerly been ploughed remarkably deep, the plough should run so as to turn up from one to two inches of subsoil, or soil that has never been brought to the surface. Many farmers, I am aware, do not approve of breaking through what is termed the "hard pan;" but experience has led me to believe that, in the end, the productiveness of the surface soil is usually improved by being mixed with subsoil; and when it lies upon the surface for some length of time, as is the case when ploughed in the fall, it absorbs fertilizing elements from the atmosphere, and under the influence of frost, light, and air, a chemical change is wrought that adds to the fertility of the soil. By shallow ploughing in the fall, I think more is lost than gained as it regards fertility. It is only when soil is brought to the surface that has not been acted upon by air, light, and frost, that its productiveness will be increased by fall ploughing.

The fertility of much of our light soil, in my opinion, might be permanently augmented by deep ploughing. It is very essential for the successful cultivation of nearly all crops, that the soil should be a deep one. In such soils, the roots will be more extended and multiplied; and this must necessarily give a more vigorous growth to the plant. And then, again, crops grown upon a deep soil are far less liable to be injured by drought or wet weather. The roots will penetrate and draw a supply of moisture from the earth long after it is denied it from the clouds; and when it is excessively wet, the earth will drink up the water, when in light soils it would flood the roots of plants; and for the same reason, deep ploughed lands are much less liable to be washed and gullied.

It is my usual practice to plough old lands, intended for wheat or oats, in the fall. It can be done then with less expense, and I sometimes wish to get in such crops before the frost upon all parts of the land is sufficiently out to admit of ploughing.

Greensward broke up in the fall should be rolled and harrowed. Unless the ground is very smooth, rolling will be necessary to prevent the harrow from inverting the sod; and the principal benefit of harrowing is to fill up the interval between the furrows, and thereby prevent the escape of gas evolved while the turf is undergoing fermentation. I should have remarked, when speaking of the season of ploughing, that it is not advisable to plough mowing lands immediately after they are mowed: they should have time to throw up a good coat of fresh grass; and for the same object, it would be well to have pastures unfed for several weeks before ploughing. I believe the turf turned under, when well clad with green grass, is equal to half a dressing of manure, or twenty loads per acre. This I think is a strong argument in favor of the practice of breaking up and seeding land every four to six years.

EBENEZER BRIDGE.

Pomfret, Vt., *Sept.* 12, 1849.

For the New England Farmer.

SCRIBBLINGS FROM THE PEN OF A FARMER.

Mr. Editor: My father was a farmer, a carpenter, and a cooper, although farming was his principal business: he toiled, perhaps, as many hours in a day as any other man in his neighborhood. In the year 1801, he emigrated from the town of Woodbridge, Conn., and settled in the town of Butternuts, in the state of New York, where he purchased a farm of one hundred and nine acres of wild land, for which he paid, or agreed to pay, five hundred and forty-five dollars, although he paid down only one hundred dollars, being the total amount he possessed, and which he took with him from Woodbridge in silver coin, tied up in a stocking. Here he commenced operations (or I should have said *they*, as a young man, who emigrated thence with him, purchased a farm joining that of my father's) by putting up a simple log hut about on the line between the two farms, in which they lived, and did their own cooking and washing. Pork, potatoes, and brown bread constituted the principal part of their living. I hardly dare tell the quantity of pork they consumed in the course of the summer; but I would say this much, —*one* barrel did not carry them out.

Many pleasant evenings have I passed in listening to the little incidents that transpired during their bachelorship, in this mode of life, the narration of which I shall not here trouble the reader with.

Few young men of the present day would think of leaving their New England homes — the land of their infancy and boyhood — to settle in the unbroken wilds of the west, unattended by a helpmeet and companion. It is true that it is a great undertaking, and but few of those who have always lived in a thickly-settled country, surrounded with all the comforts of civilized life, know but little of the toils and privations which the new settler has to undergo, — the scanty pittance which he has to subsist upon before he gets his land under a state of cultivation. But, after all, there is something pleasing in the idea of being the original founder of one's own homestead. In the onset, the prospect would indeed look gloomy; but hope stands by him, and points him onward; and with courage and perseverance in his every nerve, and strength in his muscular arm, his prospects are soon bright before him. The future is radiant with smiles. He sees in his mind's eye all that his heart can wish. His forests are prostrated by his uplifted axe, and bright fields and waving grains are exposed to his view. He sees his simple log hut constructed into a beautiful cottage; barn, and out-buildings skirting the premises, and every thing in neatness and order. Thus favored, he goes to work with all the energy of a Hannibal scaling the Alps; and ere many summers shall have gone by, the new settler has the satisfaction of seeing his hopes realized, and his labors crowned with success. * * * *

Renewing the subject I have previously left, I shall continue my scribblings still further. Years passed on. My father had a large family growing up around him. As his forests were converted into fertile fields, and teemed with growing crops, there was plenty of work for himself and boys. When it was suitable weather to work, the old gentleman with his boys (in numbers sufficient to keep six or eight teams at work) were busily engaged in tilling and improving the land. In stormy weather, he would take his little army into his workshop, and set them to work at something. He meant all of his boys should learn the use of tools, and a wise idea it was, too. Sometimes the boys (counting myself one of the *eight*, all now living and grown up to manhood) would complain bitterly because they had to work rainy days and all; but now, when I look back to those days of my boyhood, I feel no desire to complain, inasmuch as I have had cause to be thankful many times for the knowledge I then gained by being thus employed these "rainy days." As boys generally think, so thought I, that I should not be a farmer when I was old enough to act for myself; neither did I think I should be a carpenter or a cooper. Time passed away; the long-desired time came that was to make me my *own* man. It was indeed a bright period in my life. I well remember the day I left my father's roof. I have said it was a bright period — but I must retract. *That* day was not *all* brightness to me; I felt what others no doubt have felt — that I was leaving my *home*.

But I yielded to my previous resolutions. I did not have the western fever, as many young men did at that day, but I was bound for New England — "the land of the forest and the rock." I had no idea of clearing up wild lands, or of being a farmer in any shape. I had read and heard much of Dr. Franklin — of his travelling the streets of Philadelphia in pursuit of work in the printing business. I had my mind made up that this was the business for me. I accordingly bent my steps to Rhode Island, where I engaged myself in learning the printer's art, to me rather of a *black* art for a while, — for I was kept a good share of the time blacking the face of type with ink. I soon got above this, however, and made very good progress at the *case;* but I soon found *this* was not the business for me. I could not bear confinement and the midnight lamp. It seemed to wear upon my constitution more than laboring upon the farm; and after following the business steadily for upwards of four years, and wasting the better part of my constitution, (as I then thought,) I gave up the business, and moved on to the little farm I now occupy, and which I would not exchange for all the printing offices in New England, were I obliged to labor in them as I used to do. I was never born to be confined. My home is the country: here I love to labor and enjoy the pure air of heaven. I have no desire to exchange for the pent-up, crowded city.

How different things seem when compared to the days of my boyhood! Then I *knew* I should never be a farmer. But changes will and do take place. I have now but little need of a carpenter, or a cooper, as the little knowledge I gained of my father (many thanks to him) during those "rainy days" has proved of invaluable service to me in later years. In conclusion, I would here add, let no young man despise farming, as beneath his dignity. It is not only a lucrative business, but it is also a healthy and independent business; and as for its being an *honorable* occupation, we all know that there is no other business in the known world that stands in higher repute. I may continue my scribblings.

Yours with respect, A. T.

SMITHFIELD, R. I., *August*, 1849.

For the New England Farmer.

COMPOSITION FOR GRAFTING.

MR. COLE: I intended before this time to inform you of my experience in grafting, last spring, in respect to two kinds of composition to put round the scion and stock. For several years I have used clay mixed with old horse dung found in pastures, which had lost its fetid quality. I have been in the habit, of late years, of putting it on in small quantities; almost as little as I formerly used of a composition composed of one part tallow, two parts beeswax, and three parts rosin. The clay, &c., I bound on with old woollen or other rags, and tied it on. I have thought that my grafts succeeded better with the clay than with the former mode. Last April, I grafted for Mr. Jacob Deane in a nursery of apple-trees. Most of them were grafted near the ground, and I made use of the clay, as above. In examining them a few days ago, I found that they succeeded very well — rather better than usual.

In the latter part of the time I grafted there, a young man from Norton, who had the misfortune to lose his right arm when a boy, grafted in the same nursery, and made use of a composition composed of beeswax, rosin, and linseed oil, put on, while warm, with a small painter's brush. His scions succeeded very well. Mr. Deane thinks there was not much difference in regard to their living and growing well, compared with mine. The scions were taken from the trees the days they were set. The time that I grafted them was between the 13th and 26th of April. The other man continued to graft there later, when the sap began to flow, and some trees began to leaf out. They did not live quite so well. Yours, &c., J. S.

MANSFIELD, *August* 20, 1849.

EDITORIAL REMARKS. — A composition of rosin, beeswax, and tallow or oil, properly prepared and applied, is generally attended with as much success as any preparation of clay; and it is surely less

troublesome in its application, or may be used with greater facility and expedition. Some prefer oil to tallow, as it is a vegetable substance, and, as some suppose, less injurious to trees. But its being a vegetable substance is no evidence of its being harmless in its application to trees. The tallow in the ox was once a vegetable substance, and has been extracted by secretion. By the application of art, and by fire, certain powerful and concentrated substances may be obtained from vegetables that are as destructive to living plants, as those produced by animal secretion. We think that linseed oil applied to trees would be more destructive than tallow, as it is a liquid substance, and would more readily penetrate the bark and wood.

EXPERIMENTS IN RAISING WINTER WHEAT.

Friend Holmes: In the Farmer of last week, I noticed thy remarks in favor of cultivating winter wheat in Maine. Having experimented a little with this crop, and being well satisfied with the result, I wish to make a brief statement of the same, hoping that some few individuals at least, who have not heretofore, may venture to commence the growing of winter wheat the present season, and thereby save the state a few dollars that would otherwise go into the great purse to carry west for flour.

The first sown by me was in the 8th month, 1846, — soil, partly clay, and the other part gravelly loam. A crop of oats and peas had just been taken off; the stubble was ploughed and top-dressed, about five eighths of an acre, with five double horse wagon loads of staole manure and litter made the winter previous. On one fourth of an acre adjoining, twenty-five bushels of leached ashes were spread. Two quarts less than a bushel was sown on the 18th of the 8th month, and well harrowed in. When winter and spring frost was over, the wheat plants were green and thrifty, except a few all over the piece, which I concluded were frozen to death for want of sufficient depth of covering. The season of 1847 was remarkable, as well as 1848, for heat and wet; and this crop suffered materially thereby, both at the time of growing, and whilst in shook; it even began to sprout, and all the bundles had to be opened, thereby occasioning a considerable waste. Sixteen and one-half bushels were obtained from the seven-eighths acre.

In the spring of 1847, I commenced with two acres for this crop, by sowing half a bushel of buckwheat to the acre. When in blossom in the 6th month, it was ploughed, and sowed again to buckwheat. It was ploughed again on the 20th of the 8th month, when so many witch grass roots were found still living in the soil, which we expected to kill by these several deep ploughings and the buckwheat, that we omitted sowing the wheat, being fearful that the grass would overpower it. In conversing with my friend William A. Drew, of Augusta, he informed me that he had several times grown a good crop on ground infested with this troublesome grass, but he would not recommend sowing wheat when it was very thick. This year, 1847, I did not sow any winter wheat, not having any other ground that I could prepare in season; and I only mention the foregoing particulars to show that I was not discouraged by the first experiment from sowing the next year.

In 1848, soon after the hay was taken from an old mowing field, I ploughed about five eighths of an acre of it — soil, stiff clay, clay loam, gravelly, and a few furrows on one side of a watercourse, a black soil. Few lots of the size contain as many different varieties of soil. A heavy roller was run over the inverted sward, and manure was spread on very light, as follows: First, a strip with compost, made of sods ploughed up to make watercourses in cold, springy land, quick lime, about one half cask to the cord, and animal manure, about one load to fifteen of earth; next, swamp muck and leached ashes composted; then, horse manure and litter that had been made during the summer; and last, lime in very small quantity, perhaps at the rate of four or five casks to the acre — the whole well harrowed in. On the 20th of the 8th month, I sowed five eighths of a bushel of wheat on this ground, and covered it about two or three inches deep with a single horse plough. With the exception of a few rods of ground that was flat, this crop stood the unusually severe winter, and the spring frosts, well; though a part of it was not covered with snow all winter.

The same week I sowed a piece of high interval — the soil a free, yellow loam, on which peas had grown. Mistaking the strength of this soil, as two crops had been taken off since it was manured, I sowed at the rate of one and a half bushels, which proved too thick, much of it falling about the time it attained its full height, and consequently it filled but little.

This crop is not threshed yet, but we think, taken together, (the lodged patch excepted,) it will yield from twenty to twenty-five bushels to the acre of as white and plump grain as I have ever seen raised in New York.

The time of sowing is from the middle of the 8th, to the 20th of the 9th month. On greensward, or land lightly manured, we prefer to sow from the 15th to the 25th of the 8th month. On lands in fine tilth and highly manured, winter wheat has done first rate, when sown as late as the 18th or 20th of the 9th month. My friend, J. Morrill, of Waterville village, who has cultivated winter wheat more than any other person of my acquaintance in this county, informed me that he raised last year nearly thirty bushels to the acre from seed sown the 18th of the 9th month. In previous years, he has raised fine crops on land, after taking off a crop of corn. The corn was cut up and taken off the ground to dry.

If sown early on rich land, it will be necessary to feed off a part of the fall growth with light stock, else it may smother and mould, so as very much to injure the grain. Friend Morrill thinks any dry soil, sufficiently sloping to turn off the heavy rains, will produce winter wheat, if suitably prepared; and further, that greensward, with top-dressing, is preferable to old land.

In my haste, I forgot to mention the result from the different manures used last year. The two composts gave a much better crop than the horse manure or the lime. Of lime, there was too little put on to give a fair experiment. Muck, with lime or ashes, I am satisfied, will make a cheap and excellent manure for wheat.

The seed I have sown was imported direct from Poland, in 1846. It is a white variety, fully equal to the best I have seen from the Western States. Whether it will withstand the cold any better than seed brought from the Southern and Western States, I know not, having never tested the matter; but I have thought it possible that it might, it having been brought from a climate several degrees north of us. At any rate, it bears cold as well as winter rye, and with me it produces as many or more bushels to the acre.

I have been particular in detailing trifles, to encourage others, if such there are, who know less even than I do about this crop, to try it, if it be even on a small scale, as we have; and more than this,

that others better qualified will make the agriculturists acquainted with the best method of cultivating this valuable grain.

I am truly thy friend,
MOSES TABER.

Vassalboro', 8*th* *Mo.* 1849.
— *Maine Farmer.*

Remarks by Editor N. E. Farmer. — It is stated in the Mail, (Me.,) that Messrs. Pearsons, Waterville, raised twenty-nine bushels of Kloss Blue Stem winter wheat from one acre and ten rods of land, which they offer for seed. This is the same as we acknowledged the receipt of from Mr. M'Intire, in our last number. Brother Holmes, of the Maine Farmer, says that the weevil, or grain worm, has not appeared in that state this season. We have in New England all the elements and advantages necessary to the production of an abundance of wheat for our own use, and we trust that more attention will be given to the subject.

WOOL.

As we anticipated and expressed in a former number of the Farmer, wool is "looking up," as the mercantile men say; that is, the price has risen from twenty cents — the first bid which buyers made soon after the clip — to thirty cents. It will probably rise a little higher for the best grades, but it isn't best to hold on too long. A nimble ninepence, you know, is better than a slow shilling.

The western wool-growers seem to be increasing their flocks. As they gain experience in the mode of managing sheep, their flocks increase; but they find that wool cannot be raised quite so spontaneously on the prairies, as was first supposed. The belief that it could, however, induced the farmers there to commence the business; and those who have learned the trade, find that although it requires more care than they first reckoned upon, they can nevertheless make fair profits.

By the way, we see it announced in some of the journals of the day, that there have been some rare importations of merinoes into Illinois. The merinoes of the present day seem to have partaken of the same spirit of improvement that other farm stock have, and their size is accordingly much increased. It was formerly believed that a merino must necessarily be a small, delicate animal; but some of the late importations tell of animals of this class weighing two hundred and fifty and three hundred pounds. That is something substantial, at least; and if they will produce fleeces heavier in proportion to their increase in size, and as fine as we have heretofore been in the habit of growing, a great gain is obtained.

The Peoria Register mentions an importation of heavy French merinoes by Freeman Humphreys. These are probably similar to those imported by some of the Connecticut and Vermont farmers, of which we have heretofore made mention in our paper. The farmers of Maine, and indeed the farmers every where else, will find it an object to keep only the best sheep at any time, but more especially so when wool is low in price, and the call for it rather sluggish. — *Maine Farmer.*

HARVESTING BEANS.

Some farmers, on harvesting their beans, find it difficult to spread them in the barn, so that they will dry thoroughly; and when placed in thick layers, they are liable to mould, especially as some remain green while others are ripe. The following plan, from the Maine Farmer, is very convenient, and obviates the difficulty that usually attends storing beans in the barn immediately after gathering. After beans are threshed and winnowed, they should be spread and exposed to the air till well dried, as they are liable to mould when laid in large heaps or put up in large casks or boxes.

Various methods have been adopted for securing the bean crop; in this there is greater diversity in the practice of farmers, so far as we have observed, than in the harvesting of any other of our farm crops. With us, beans are usually planted with corn, and they must be pulled and secured before the corn is harvested.

In harvesting beans, we have adopted the following method, which we consider as safe, and liable to as few objections as any other. It was recommended several years ago in some of the agricultural journals. After one becomes used to it, it will be found to require but little more time or labor than some other methods by which they are not likely to be secured with so little waste, nor in so good order.

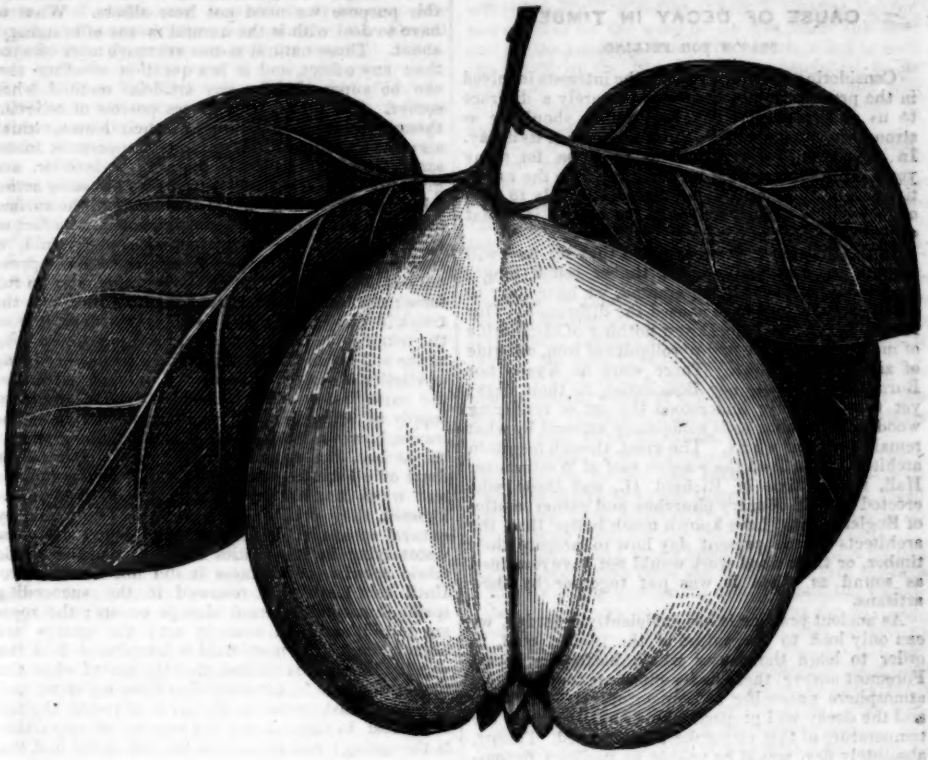
First procure the requisite number of stakes, about six or seven feet in length. These are to be used in pairs, and placed at convenient distances in the field. Then make two holes in the ground with a crowbar, about a foot apart, and sufficiently deep to hold the stakes firmly. In these holes insert a pair of the stakes, and on them, about six inches from the ground, wreathe a withe, to keep the beans from the ground. In pulling the beans, the roots are to be kept together, and in arranging them between the stakes, first place a small handful on the withe, then another handful on the other side, lapping them a little, and turning the roots towards the centre of the stack, while the branches and leaves are on the outside. Proceed in this manner, keeping the stack nearly cylindrical in form, until it is built up high enough; then press the stakes together so as to keep the beans in place, and confine them by a withe at the top. Stacks of beans put up in this manner will shed rain, and the beans in them will keep in good order until they are fit to house.

When the beans are to be got in, take a handspike, and put it under the stack between the stakes, and lift the whole up together, and convey them away without separating them.

PEACH AND PLUM-TREES.

The early decline of the peach and plum-tree in our latitude, and the inefficiency of almost every means adopted for invigorating them again, seems to be a subject worthy of some consideration, and we would very gladly see it noticed by some of your scientific correspondents. No effectual remedy (if indeed there is such) for the disease appears to be known in this vicinity. Various devices have been resorted to, accompanied with but indifferent success. Some believe an application of hot ley from wood ashes to be efficacious. The ground is first removed from the trunk and roots of the tree, and the liquid is then poured in around it. This experiment has been tried here in several instances this spring, and the result, so far, seems favorable enough; whether this remedy may be considered at all available, I am yet unprepared to say. It were certainly very desirable that the lamentable difficulty in the cultivation of this kind of fruit, should be removed by some treatment more effectual than any we are now aware of. Perhaps some of your agricultural contributors have given attention to the subject. J. H.

Bucks County, Pa., 1849.
— *Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper.*



APPLE QUINCE.

Synonyms — *Apple-shaped, Orange, Cydonia Maliformis, Coignassier Maliforme of the French.*

The quince is among our most valuable fruits; and though not adapted to the dessert, it is prepared in various ways, and is most excellent, being so high flavored that it gives character to various other fruits that are cooked with it. It has a very healthful effect in various medical preparations, and in food is both wholesome and palatable.

The quince is hardy; and as it blossoms late, from having its fruit on the new growth of the season, it is more likely to escape injury from spring frosts. An opinion has prevailed, generally, that the quince will flourish only on cool, moist soils; but practice shows that it will flourish well on gravelly hills and sandy plains, under skilful management. The fine specimen from which our drawing is taken, is from John Washburn, Plymouth, and it flourishes well in the light lands there.

The quince should be more extensively cultivated. They are excellent for family use, and they sell well in the market. It is but little cultivated north of this state, because it does not ripen well. There are two causes for this, both of which may be easily obviated. One cause of the quince not ripening in the north is, that the Pear quince, which is several weeks later than the Apple quince, is generally cultivated. Another cause of late ripening is planting the trees in a cool, heavy soil, instead of a warm soil and location. With the Apple quince, a warm, sandy loam, and a favorable location, this highly valuable fruit may be extended nearly to all parts of New England.

The fruit of the Apple quince is large; of irregular shape, but resembling the apple in being rather larger at or towards the base; the skin is fair, smooth, of a beautiful golden-yellow color; the flesh is rather tender, compared with other quinces; and this quality appears conspicuous after cooking, on which account this variety is preferred by some nice observers in the culinary art. This variety is a good grower, and some horticulturists consider it fully equal to the Portugal quince for stocks for dwarf pears. It bears well. It may be propagated by seeds, layers, cuttings, or by budding and grafting on kindred stocks.

A sound economy is a sound understanding brought into action. It is calculation realized. It is the doctrine of proportion reduced to practice. It is the foreseeing contingencies and providing against them. — *Hannah More.*

Half an ounce of alum in powder, will purify twelve gallons of corrupted water.

CAUSE OF DECAY IN TIMBER.

SEASON FOR FELLING.

Considering the magnitude of the interests involved in the preservation of timber, it is surely a disgrace to us of the present day, that doubts should be as strong as ever concerning the true causes of its decay. In an absence of certainty as to these, for many years, attention has been turned away from the essential part of the inquiry, and directed merely to secondary points. The problem to be solved is, What causes the decay of timber?

In the first place, it is presumed that no one will dispute the fact that ancient timber lasted longer than modern. That being granted, we have only to ascertain what can have caused the difference. Our Anglo-Saxon forefathers knew nothing of bi-chloride of mercury, sulphate and pyrolignite of iron, chloride of zinc, nor creosote. There were no Kyans nor Burnetts, no Paynes nor Boucheries, in their days; yet they perfectly understood the art of rendering wood imperishable, as is sufficiently attested by what remains of their works. The great, though forgotten architects, who fixed the wooden roof of Westminster Hall, in the time of Richard II., and those who erected the old country churches and corner castles of England, must have known much better than the architects of the present day how to prepare their timber, or their wood work would not have remained as sound as when it was put together by their artisans.

As ancient practice is not sufficiently recorded, we can only look to the nature of the timber itself, in order to learn the causes which hasten its decay. Foremost among these is its exposure to any moist atmosphere exceeding a temperature of 33° Fahr.; and the decay will proportionably be hastened as the temperature of that atmosphere is increased. Timber, absolutely dry, would be unable to undergo decomposition at any appreciable rate. A piece of wood found at the back of one of the friezes, at Athens, by Lord Elgin, is as sound at present as it could have been in the days of Phidias, more than two thousand years ago. Even animal matters, rapidly as they putrefy, are preserved for centuries in the absence of moisture. Travellers assure us that in the arid plains that stretch northwards beyond the Himalayan range, the corpses of men and the carcasses of animals dry up, instead of rotting. The Gaucho hangs his beef in the sun, and in the dry climate of the pampas it hardens as so much hide, like which it may be kept for use.

If, then, mere dryness is sufficient to arrest the decay of animal matter, how much more effectual must be its action upon vegetable substances, in which a natural tendency to rot is infinitely less inherent. Sawdust is but timber broken to pieces; damp sawdust rots rapidly; dry sawdust will all but last forever. Charcoal, one of the most unchangeable forms of vegetable matter, is only timber from which the last trace of water has been expelled by heat. Absence of moisture is therefore the great cause of preservation, as its presence is that of decay.

Complete dryness may be assumed to have been the cause of the durability of ancient timber. At least, in the present state of our information, we can refer it to nothing else; and dryness is amply sufficient to account for it. In the opinion of one of the most experienced and philosophical of modern writers, the late Sir Samuel Bentham, dryness was the great object to be obtained in preparing timber for naval purposes. Drying houses were recommended by him; and during all the period of his employment as civil architect of the British navy, this distinguished officer never ceased to point out the indispensable necessity of securing the dryness of timber before all other things. To the artificial methods available for this purpose we need not here allude. What we have to deal with is the natural means of bringing it about. Those natural means are much more effectual than any others, and it is a question whether they can be superseded by any artificial method whatsoever. The means which trees possess of relieving themselves from moisture are their leaves, which serve as a very powerful pumping apparatus, incessantly drawing moisture from their interior, and giving it off to space. It is true that the same action which produces a discharge of fluid from the surface of leaves, has at certain seasons, the counter effect of again charging the apparatus with more fluid, to replace that which is thrown off; but this happens only at certain seasons. In spring, a tree is in full force; the roots then draw fluid from the soil, the trunk draws it from the roots, leaves draw it from the trunk — and waste it; and this goes on so long as the soil is filled with the rains of spring — so long as vitality is active. But as the summer advances, the earth becomes dry, refuses the same abundant supply as before, and all vegetation slackens. The leaves, however, still go on — pump, pump, pump; till at last, the roots becoming torpid, the leaves draw off all the free fluid that the trunk contains; and when the last supply that it can yield is exhausted, they perish. At that time, the trunk, by natural means, is dried to a great degree; the free water lying in its cavities is gone; and the whole fabric acquires a hardness it did not know before. Until the leaves are renewed in the succeeding spring, but small internal change occurs; the roots are torpid, and will scarcely act; the pumps are broken; and little more fluid is introduced into the wood. Hence it is obvious that the period when the timber of a tree is naturally free from moisture, and therefore least prone to decay, is between the fall of the leaf in autumn and the renewal of vegetation in the spring; and the nearer the fall of the leaf, the most free.

In this point of view, timber which is intended to be durable should be felled late in the autumn, or in midwinter. No artificial processes will relieve it of its moisture so economically and so well as the means which nature has provided. On the other hand, if it is felled when the tissue is full of fluid, it is much to be doubted whether any artificial methods of exhaustion are capable of seasoning it properly. — *American Agriculturist.*

EVERY MAN A FARMER.

The cultivation of the earth is congenial to the nature of mankind; and a very large proportion of men, during some share of their lives, either do, or have a desire to, become farmers. Besides those who, in civilized countries, are bred to the culture of the soil, and make it their sole pursuit through life, there are thousands of others who retire from the bustle and anxieties of trade, the vexations of a professional, or the turmoils of a public life, to rural quiet and the undisturbed cultivation of a few acres of land. The merchant, whose youth has been spent behind the counter, whose prime of life and middle age have passed between the leger and the strong-box, between the hopes of gain and the fears of loss, having at length realized a plum, retires, from the crowded city and the anxieties of trade, to the pure air of the country and the peaceful cultivation of a farm. The lawyer, having acquired wealth and professional fame, abandons his causes for a more tempting cause, — the pursuit of agriculture, — or mingles with his professional labors the exercise of the spade and the plough. In like manner, the physician and the divine, the curers of physical and moral diseases, consult their own health and quiet, and find a balm

for body and mind, by snatching a few hours from the calls of professional duty, to apply them to the grateful pursuits of tilling the earth. Why should we mention the statesman and the warrior? They, too, are inclined to become farmers: the one leaving the field of ambition, the other his harvest of laurels, both seek a soil more congenial to the best feelings of man, and end the career of life, like Cincinnatus, at the plough. Even the mariner, the adventurous son of Neptune, whose home has been for many years, professionally and practically, on the deep, — who has sailed to all lands and visited every sea, bringing with him the rarities of every country and the products of every clime, — purchases a home on the land, transplants his exotics into his native soil, and prefers that his last rest should be in the rural churchyard with his kindred, to finding a bed in the bosom of the deep. The mechanic, too, is smit with the love of farming, and exchanges the dust of the shop for the furrows of the field, the confined air of crowded rooms for the free atmosphere of the heavens, and the noise of machinery for the music of birds.

Nor is this prevailing love of agriculture, which sooner or later in life discovers itself, to be wondered at, whether we consider it as implanted in our nature, or whether it be the result of reason and experience. If it be innate, it is merely kept down for a while by the engrossing pursuits of wealth, the calls of ambition, or the strife of glory. But, these being satiated or disappointed, the mind, set free, returns to its native desires, and applies its remaining energies to their peaceful gratification. But reason and experience may well be allowed their share in bringing so large a portion of mankind ultimately to the cultivation of the earth. Who, that values his native dignity and independence, would not prefer to be lord of a few acres of land, with nobody's humors to consult but his own, and nobody to please but his Maker, to the cringing, the fawning, and lying that are apt to enter so largely into political, professional, mercantile, and mechanical life? If any man on earth can say, "*I ask no favors*," it is the farmer. Skilful and honest labor is all that the earth requires, and it yields a due return — no favors dearly bought with the surrender of independence, of honor, of truth, and of all noble and manly feelings; no truckling for office, no fawning for popularity, no lying for gain. No man can say of farming, "I have served a faithless master! I have sacrificed honor, and conscience, and independence of mind; and what have I gained?" Among farmers there are no deserted Wolseys, and no Belisarius lives a reproach to agricultural pursuits. The choristers of the field never sing to deceive, the flowers of the mead never bloom to hide a deformity, and nature never smiles to betray. — *Berkshire American.*

BEES AND THE MOTH.

Messrs. Editors: Among the numerous humbugs of the day are some patent beehives, recommended to the public as infallible protection against the bee moth. And as the moth is very troublesome and vexatious to bee-keepers, they seize hold of any thing with avidity, which their credulity leads them to believe will afford relief; and thus they are gulled out of their money, and set off upon a false track — inevitably to meet with disappointment. Now, as patent beehive-venders have harped upon this one string, "Protection from the moth! Protection from the moth!" until I, for one, have become perfectly satiated with the sound, I am provoked to give my views on the subject. It is said of some of these hives, that the peculiar construction is such, that the miller will never enter them. But I think it not within the scope of human wisdom to construct a hive in such a manner as to admit the bee and exclude the moth. The moth, in its perfect state, is a winged insect — a miller — and is smaller, lighter, and quicker on the wing or on foot, than the bee; and by the infallible laws of its nature, is led to seek the abode of the bees as a place congenial to its wants for the reproduction of its species, and will enter, in spite of all that man can do to prevent it, short of closing the hive.

Another and equally fallacious hope of protection, is from miller traps, (falsely) so called, formed of metallic substances, and placed in or about the hives for the millers to deposit their eggs in, that they may perish before coming to maturity, as they certainly would do if placed there; for the reason that the insect, while in its chrysalis state, subsists upon the material upon which it is placed, which must be vegetable or animal substance, for it cannot consume mineral substance. But who believes the miller subject to such random operations, in following out the laws of her nature, as to deposit her eggs in such a place, or upon such a material, as that they must of course perish, while, at the same time, she is in the immediate vicinity of that place and material which she chooses, above all others, for that purpose?

The fact is, no such contrivances are miller traps, but they are perfect and effectual traps for all who purchase the right to use them. They are not based upon any good philosophy, and have nothing to recommend them but the inventors and venders.

The only thing, in my opinion, upon which we can rely for protection from the moth, is to give the bees a hive of such dimensions that a naturally constituted or common-sized swarm of bees densely populate the same. They will then be able to protect themselves; not that they will, or can, prevent the moths entering the hive, and depositing their eggs there; but they will eject the grubs, and no serious injury will be experienced by the bees. And this, I am happy to say, is not a patentable subject: any man can make a beehive, of whatever dimensions he pleases, without paying any one for the privilege. These are my views upon the subject of protection from the moth.

D. LATHROP.

La Salle, Ill., *June*, 1849.

— *Prairie Farmer.*

NEW MODE OF BUILDING.

A small house may be built in the following manner, with a saving of expense, wherever lumber is as plenty and cheap as in this city, and where planing can be done by machinery: Take two inch plank, plane them on one side, and tongue and groove them. Provide good sills; and erect the building by setting the plank upright, and battening the joints with strips of half-inch stuff, the strips two inches wide. This forms the outside wall. Furr out on the inside, with half-inch stuff, and lath to that. The half-inch furring gives sufficient room for the plastering to clinch, yet leaves the space too narrow for mice. For small one-story houses, this is a very pretty mode of building, cheaper than by studs and clapboards, and in many respects better. Several such houses have been built in this city, and give good satisfaction. — *Selected.*

PLANTING AND BUILDING.

It was a very just remark of an eminent author, "The works of the person who builds begin immediately to decay; while the works of him who plants commence immediately to improve." Lord Bacon also remarked, "When nations arrive at civility and elegancy, men come to build stately sooner than to garden finely, as if building were the greater perfection." — *Selected.*

Domestic Department.

Plain Advice to Country Girls. — You know I said that I could quilt almost as fast as two of you. The reason is, I take care of my hands. One half of you are too proud to do this. You would not be caught putting a glove on to sweep, or hoe, or weed in the garden, because you think it would look as if you wanted to be fine ladies. If you see any one taking care of her hands or careful to wear a sunbonnet to preserve her complexion, you say she is "proud and stuck up." But it is you who are proud — too proud to think you require any care to look nice. You have an idea you look well enough at any rate. So you just make yourself as rough and coarse as ever you can, by way of being independent. Your hands grow as stiff and hard as if you held a plough and swung a scythe; and when you take a needle, you can scarcely feel it in your fingers. This is wrong. There are many things which women ought to do, which require their hands to be soft and pliable, and they should be careful to keep them so, in order to make them useful. Every woman who lives in the country should knit herself a pair of woollen gloves, with long fingers closed at the tops — no mits, to let the fingers get hard. There should be a piece of ribbed work at the wrist, to make them stay on.

When you use your hoe, rake, or broom, put on your gloves — when you take hold of a skillet, pot, or kettle handle, take a cloth to keep your hands from being seared and hardened. When you wash clothes or dishes, do not have water so hot as to feel unpleasant. Many girls scald their hands until they can put them into water almost boiling. Such hands are unfit to use a needle or a pin. They are not so good to hold a baby or dress a wound. Take care of your hands, and do not forget your faces. I have seen so many country girls, who, at sixteen, had complexions like alabaster, and at twenty-six their faces would look like a runnet bag that hung six weeks in the chimney corner. One reason of this is, they do not wear a bonnet to protect them from the sun. Another reason is, the habit they have of baking their faces before a wood fire. I have seen women stand before a great roasting fire, and cook, until I thought their brains were as well stewed as the chickens; and they would get so used to it, they would make no attempt to shield their heads from the heat. Nay, they would sit down in the evening, and bake their faces by the hour; and this is one of the reasons why American women grow old, withered, and wrinkled, fifteen years before their time.

But another and the greatest reason is, your diet. People in this country live too well, and eat too much hot bread and meat. Country people usually eat richer food than those who live in the cities, and that is a reason why, with all their fresh air, their average age is little greater than that of city folks. Thousands of beautiful, blooming country girls make old, sallow-faced women of themselves before they are thirty, by drinking coffee, smoking tobacco, and eating hot bread. They shorten their lives by these practices about as much as city ladies with their fashionable follies. I do not know what *you* think about it, girls, but I think it is about as much a sin for women to get old, brown, withered faces, by eating too much, as it is for men to get red noses by drinking too much. Very few people think it a disgrace to have a bilious fever; but I would just as lief the doctor would tell me that I was drunk as that I was bilious. The one would come from drinking too much, the other from eating too much; and where is the difference? All this is a very serious matter, for it affects health and life; and the reason why I talk about your complexion in speaking of it, is, that every body loves to look well, whether they will acknowledge it or not. Now, people cannot *look* well unless *they* are well; and no one can be well very long who does not try to take care of herself. The woman who roasts her head at the fire, disorders her blood, brings on headaches, injures her health, and makes her face look like a piece of leather; when she swallows hot coffee, hot bread, greasy victuals and strong pickles, she destroys her stomach, rots her teeth, shortens her life, and makes herself too ugly for any use, except scaring the crows off the corn. J. G. S.

— *Ohio Cultivator.*

Lady Architects. — The daughters of General Simco, says the "Builder," an English journal, on the ruins of the old abbey, Dunkswell, near Honiton, have erected a church for which they worked all the stone with their own hands. The same journal adds, "We have a worthy companion for these ladies, whose name is Miss Rickards, of Stow Langtoft, Bury, who has, with her own hands, glazed all the windows in her father's church with stained glass, painted and burnt by herself.

Soda Coffee. — The flavor of coffee may be very much improved, by adding forty or fifty grains of carbonate of soda to each pound of roasted coffee. In addition to improving the flavor, the soda makes the coffee more wholesome, as it neutralizes the acid contained in the infusion.

Boys' Department.

The Redbreast. — Though the redbreast is generally admired for his song, he is still more admired for his attachment to and confidence in mankind. In all countries, he is a favorite, and has what may be called a pet name. The inhabitants of Bornholm call him *Tommi Liden*, the Norwegians, *Peter Ronsmed*, the Germans, *Thomas Gierdet*, and in England he is known as *Robin Redbreast*, or by the still more familiar appellation of *Bob*. Buffon describes, with his usual elegance, the winter manners of this bird. "In that season," says he, "they visit our dwellings and seek the warmest and most sheltered situations; and if any one happens still to continue in the woods, it becomes the companion of the fagot-maker, cherishes itself at his fire, pecks at his bread, and flutters the whole day round him, chirping its slender pip. But when the cold grows more severe, and thick snow covers the ground, it approaches our houses, and taps at the windows with its bill, as if to entreat an asylum, which is cheerfully granted; and it repays the favor by the most amiable familiarity, gathering the crumbs from the table, distinguishing affectionately the people of the house, and assuming a warble, not indeed so rich as that in the spring, but more delicate. This it retains through all the rigors of the season, to hail each day the kindness of its host, and the sweetness of its retreat." The bill of the robin is slender and delicate; its eyes are large, dark, and expressive, and its aspect mild; its head and all the upper parts of its body are brown, tinged with a greenish olive; the neck and breast are of a fine deep reddish orange; a spot of the color marks its forehead; its belly is whitish, and the legs and feet of a dusky black. It is near six inches in length, from the tip of the bill to the end of the tail; the former being about half an inch, and the latter two inches and a half.

This bird, in England, has the sweetest song of all the feathered tribe: the notes of other birds are,

indeed, louder, and their inflections more capricious; but the redbreast's voice is soft, tender, and well supported; and the more to be valued, as we enjoy it the greatest part of the winter.

During the spring, the robin haunts the wood, the grove, and the garden, and retires to the thickest and shadiest hedge-rows to breed in, where its nest is usually placed among the roots of trees, in some concealed spot near the ground. In winter, it endeavors to support itself, by chirping round the warm habitations of mankind, and by coming into those shelters where the rigor of the season is artificially expelled, and where insects are found in the greatest numbers, attracted by the same cause. The female lays from five to seven eggs, of a dull white color, diversified with reddish streaks. Insects and worms are the principal food of the redbreast. The latter it very dexterously rendered fit to be eaten, by taking hold of the extremity of one in its beak, and beating it against the ground till the inside comes away, and then repeating the operation with the other end, till the outer part is entirely cleansed. — *Selected.*

Health.

The Tomato is one of the most wholesome fruits that is cultivated. The plant is vigorous, hardy, and productive, and one of the easiest to cultivate. It is adapted to all parts of the country, by starting it in the north, in a hotbed, or some other mode to forward the plants, which costs but a trifle.

This fruit may be cooked in twenty or thirty different ways, suiting the taste of almost every person; and to many it is very palatable indeed, though most persons need to be accustomed to its use a while before they relish it.

The tomato is excellent for bilious affections, and for dyspepsia. When we were publishing the Yankee Farmer, there was an article in that paper on the healthful properties of the tomato, and the same paper contained a seed catalogue, in which was the tomato. A person who had been severely afflicted with the dyspepsia for ten years, so that he could eat but very few common dishes of food, procured some tomato seed, of which plant he had previously no knowledge; and he raised some fruit and used it as food, and he had jellies and other preparations made in the fall, that he might use when the season for fresh tomatoes was over. By this simple remedy, he was completely cured, in a few months, of an obstinate disease, that had bid defiance to the best medical skill for ten long years, for so they must have seemed to the unfortunate invalid. Here we also have the important bearing which a single fact gleaned from a useful paper, has upon a man's health, life, and interest generally.

Burying Alive. — Mr. Mansfield, of the Cincinnati Atlas, writing from Xenia, under date of July 26, says, "I cannot doubt that there have been many cases of too hasty burials, in cases of cholera. I saw a young man to-day, who was reported all one day to be dead, and was actually in a state of collapse. He said that he heard the persons at his bedside say, 'He is dead;' and at the same time, he was perfectly conscious, and in full possession of his senses! He said that he was in dread that they would bury him alive!

The Hair. — Dr. Holland has started a new theory with regard to the functions of the hair. He says it is a safety valve to the nervous system, forming a connection between the nervous organs and the great principle pervading the universe. He says the profuseness of hair is always proportionate to the prevailing vital energies. — *Selected.*

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

Mineral Cements. — *Roman Cement.* — It is a remarkable fact, in the history of hydraulic mortars, which originates, as we have seen, with the puzzolana and trass employed by the Romans, that the more the knowledge of their uses has been spread, the more substances have been discovered, which either act as hydraulic mortars themselves, or can be mixed as cements in the preparation of artificial mortar; so that what appeared originally a privilege accorded to a few favored spots only, can now be obtained almost every where. A strong inducement to study the nature and modes of occurrence of hydraulic lime, was created by the patent granted to Parker and Wyatt, in London, in the year 1796, for what they termed "*Roman cement.*" The materials employed in the manufacture of this cement, are the nodules, of an ovoidal or globular form, which are found in the London clay, and known by the name of *septaria*. They are not confined to the banks of the Thames, but are also found on the Isles of Sheppey and Wight, as well as on the coasts of Kent, Yorkshire, and Somersetshire. The composition of these nodules has already been given. They are calcined in perpetual limekilns, with coal, in which a very moderate and well-regulated heat is carefully preserved. After calcination, the stones are ground under heavy edge-stones to a very fine powder, which is sifted and then packed in casks for sale.

In the year X. of the French republic, Lesage pointed out the existence of similar cement stones on the coast of France, near Boulogne, and Drapier proved their identity with the English, by chemical analysis.

Roman cement is one of the most powerful hydraulic mortars, and is exceedingly valuable, not only on account of the rapidity with which it hardens, — and this is effected in a very few minutes, — but because, when hardened in considerable masses, it is not liable to crack.

Since that time, similar calcareous marls have been found in numerous places, wherever pains have been taken to look for them, and have been used for similar purposes. To give an instance of this, Kittle in Aschaffenburg, examined a series of limestones from the Spessart, and found, in four different places in the neighborhood, limestone, which yielded a very tolerable mortar, and two varieties which were excellent. Hydraulic lime has occasionally been met with in the same quarry as fat lime, and, its nature not having been investigated, has been neglected as useless in consequence of the slowness with which it is slaked.

All artificial or natural hydraulic limestones are soluble (before as well as after calcination) in muriatic acid, with the separation of silica, except when sand or some similar substance has been added to them.

Practical Remarks.—The hydraulic limestones, when they do not contain a sufficient quantity of lime to be capable of slaking with water, must be very finely pulverized; it is only by this high state of division that a proper action can ensue. A thorough penetration of the siliceous portion by the lime is never entirely effected, but a certain proportion remains enclosed and removed from the sphere of action.

One point, which is very often neglected in pre-

paring artificial hydraulic mortar, is the attention to the proper proportion between the slaked lime and cement. Both the ingredients must be mixed by measure or weight, and not merely estimated by the eye.

The best plan is to moisten the necessary quantity of cement first, and then mix the freshly-slaked lime with it. The more uniformly and intimately both are mixed, the better is the result.

The hydraulic mortar employed in building the Eddystone lighthouse, was mixed by Smeaton from equal proportions of lime, slaked to powder, and puzzolana. Trass and puzzolana are generally mixed with half their weight of lime, as was the practice amongst the Romans. It is desirable to ascertain the best proportions by experiment in all cases where no certain knowledge of the nature of the two substances can be obtained.

Good hydraulic mortar, whether made from natural limestone or composed of lime and cement, should not show any tendency to crack when hardened under water, even when no sand is mixed with it. It then forms a very dense and solid mass, which, in a short time, neither suffers water to permeate it, nor is attacked by the water, but acquires a considerable degree of hardiness. For this reason, it is well to use nothing but hydraulic mortar for those parts of walls which are constantly under water. If the mortar is not only required to harden, but also to bind well, a very important point must never be neglected; and that is, to moisten the surfaces of the stones to which the mortar is to be applied. When this is not done, the surface of the stone (by its power of absorbing moisture) dries the mortar, and prevents proper adhesion from taking place. The joint then remains open to a greater or less extent.

It does not by any means follow, that because hydraulic mortar is the only durable material for building under water, it cannot consequently be used for dry walls. It is, on the contrary, of the greatest service wherever protection is required against the infiltration of moisture and damp; and dwellings or buildings can often be rendered very much less damp by a judicious application of a hydraulic coating; a layer of this kind, when once hardened, is not calculated, like ordinary mortar, to attract moisture and allow it to pass through. The hydraulic mortar must, of course, when used for covering dry walls or otherwise, be kept moist and watered, until it has acquired its proper degree of hardness. If this is not attended to, a soft, friable, useless coating is the certain result. If moisture enters from below, for instance, between the wall and the coating of mortar, it will continue confined there in consequence of the impenetrability of the latter, which, on the occurrence of a frost, will most certainly peel off and be destroyed. Care must also be taken that the mortar does not dry up of itself immediately in the air, in which case it contracts and cracks. It is, therefore, necessary to add sand, or some other substance which obviates the shrinking. Hydraulic mortar will bear a very considerable quantity of sand without injury to its hardness, even as much as one and a half times its own weight and more. This addition, therefore, is important in an economical point of view. The grain of the sand employed, however, requires attention, as was the case with ordinary mortar; sharp, angular sand is decidedly preferable to blunt, rounded sand, and it is better to use a mixture of coarse with fine sand, than that the sand should be all of the same sized grain. The sand should likewise be as free as possible from earthy particles and dust. In mortar composed of lime and cement, the rule is, to proportion the sand to the quantity of cement used. Slaked lime will not bear more than a certain quantity of these substances, which quantity must not be exceeded, the cement itself being for the greater part inactive and playing the part of sand.

Hydraulic mortar that sets with sufficient rapidity, and to which a proper proportion of sand has been added, may be employed for casting tolerably massive objects, which are not subject to crack when dry. This enables hydraulic mortar to be employed for architectural ornaments, which then combine great sharpness with durability, are very light as compared with similar figures of sandstone, and have the great advantage of being easily multiplied.

A similar application is that for casting water-pipes, on the spot where they are required, as proposed by Gasparin. The mould employed is a linen hose, like those attached to the fire engines, a few meters in length, which is filled with water and closed at both ends. A thick kind of bolster is thus produced, over which sand is sifted, and it is then laid upon a deposit of hydraulic lime, and covered by pouring over it the same substance. When the whole has hardened, the hose is drawn forward, about the length of one foot, being left inserted in the tube, and a fresh length is cast. Watercourses, thus constructed, must, however, have a certain amount of fall, or the sand cannot be washed out, and will impede the delivery of the water.

When hydraulic lime is mixed with small stones, or with shingles from the bed of a river, or the sea, walls can be directly constructed of it, and a mass is obtained which resembles the erections with ordinary mortar, and is called *béton* by the French.

At Toulon, a mixture was used for the construction of the harbor, consisting of three parts lime, four puzzolana, one smithy ashes, two sand, and four parts of rolled stones or shingles.

The great strength of walls, constructed with hydraulic mortar, is most clearly shown by the experiments undertaken with a view to break beams constructed of brickwork. A twenty-five feet long and two and a half feet wide beam, constructed with nineteen layers of bricks, bound together by Roman cement, in which, here and there, parallel strips of iron were enclosed, was capable of bearing, when supported at both ends, a weight of twenty-two tons suspended from the middle, before it showed any signs of fracture. — *Albany Cultivator.*

MANURES.

Manures assist plants, by destroying predatory vermin and weeds. This, however, is not a property of animal and vegetable manures; they foster both those enemies of our crops. Salt and lime are very efficient destroyers of slugs, snails, grubs, &c. It is astonishing how ignorantly neglectful are the cultivators of the soil, when their crops are devastated by the slug, not to dress them so as to render the surface of the soil quite white, during a promise of a few days' dry weather, with caustic lime. It is instant destruction to every slug it falls upon, and those whom it misses are destroyed by their coming in contact with it, when moving in search of food. It is a common practice to burn couch-grass, docks, gorse, and other vegetables which are very retentive of life, or slow in decay: a more uneconomical, unscientific method of reducing them to a state more beneficial to the land of which they were the refuse, cannot be devised. In breaking up heaths, such *exuviæ* are very abundant; but, in all cases, if the weeds, leaves, &c., were conveyed to a hole or pit, and with every single horse-load, and with barrow-loads in proportion, a bushel of salt and half a bushel of lime were incorporated, it would, in a few months, form a mass of decayed compost of the most fertilizing quality; the lime retaining many of the gases evolved during the putrefaction of the vegetable matter, and

the salt, and it combining to destroy noxious animals, which might form a nidus in the mass. By this plan, nearly all the carbonaceous matters of the refuse vegetables are retained; by burning, nearly all of them are dissipated. The forming of a compost such as that recommended, is justified and approved by the experience of many.

Stable manure, and all decomposing animal and vegetable substances, have a tendency to promote the decay of stubborn organic remains in the soil, on the principle that putrescent substances hasten the process of putrefaction in other organic bodies with which they come in contact. Salt, in a small proportion, has been demonstrated, by Sir J. Pringle, to be gifted with a similar septic property; and that lime rapidly breaks down the texture of organized matters is well known.

There is no doubt that rich soils, or those abounding in animal and vegetable remains, are less liable to change in temperature with that of the incumbent atmosphere, than those of a poorer constitution. This partly arises from the influence of the color of soils on vegetation. Some manures, as salt, protect plants from suffering by sudden reductions of temperature, by entering into their system, stimulating, and rendering them more vigorous, impregnating their sap, and consequently rendering it less liable to be congealed. — *Gardener's Magazine.*

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Our friends have been very liberal in their favors, and we have endeavored to do justice to them; but sometimes it is difficult to judge accurately of a fruit on examining a few specimens, and those are liable to be injured by transportation and exposure, and by delay from the time of picking the fruit to the time of trial. These are often disadvantages to which fruits are subjected when sent some distance, as many kinds are in their prime only when taken from the tree.

From Dr. Rufus Kittredge, Portsmouth, N. H., fine Bartlett pears. This popular variety has generally failed this season in most all parts of New England.

From William Heustis, Leominster, Crawford's Early Melocoton peaches, extremely large and fine.

From George Loring, Concord, Mass., large, handsome pears, without a name; it is doubtless a native. The quality is only middling, but as it is a hardy, productive variety, and ripens early, (the last week in August,) it may be valuable for market.

Of Charles H. Tarbell, of Lincoln, Tarbell, Lincoln, and Smith's Favorite peaches. These fruits we examined in the peach orchards in Lincoln, and selected them as among the finest in the country for orchard culture; they ripen rather late, and in succession. We find them very hardy, and fine growers in the nursery. As we found them without names, we named them, when we described them in the American Fruit Book. Fine crops of these fruits are produced in Lincoln, and sell at high prices.

Of Willard Badger, North Chelsea, native grapes, pleasant for the kind.

Of Capt. George Pierce, West Cambridge, large and beautiful Porter apples, the lot which took the premium at the late show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, for the best dish of apples. Capt. Pierce not only excels in bringing the first productions to market, but he excels in the superiority of his articles. He has brought so fine peaches and apples to this market, that they at once attract crowds, that evidently enjoy great pleasure in looking at the noble display. He sold a bushel of peaches the other day at six dollars. By his skill as a cultivator, and his neatness and good taste in preparing and presenting his fruits and vegetables, he does great honor to his profession.

From Isaac Holden, Billerica, several varieties of excellent peaches. One without name; medial size, white, with a red cheek; white, very tender, melting, sweet flesh, of the highest character. From its tenderness, it may be better adapted to the garden than the orchard. Two other nameless kinds; one excellent, the other tolerably good; both of good size and beautiful. Another variety, very large, beautiful, yellow ground, mostly covered with red, of the finest properties, for orchard culture, he calls the *Early Chelmsford;* but the peach which we have known for several years as the *Early Chelmsford*, which we have described in the American Fruit Book, and have in our nursery, and have distributed scions of, is a very different peach in every respect. It is white with a red cheek, white flesh, and the leaves are glandless; while this of Mr. Holden's has globose glands; and ours ripens several weeks earlier. We would say to those to whom we have furnished scions and promised trees, that we cut our scions from the tree on which grew the fine fruit we have described. As the description of the white peach has been widely disseminated, and is in reality early, and the other is not, to prevent confusion, we hope that friend Holden will get a more significant name for his excellent peach.

Of Andrew Lackey, Jr., Marblehead, several varieties of plums, among which is the famous Jefferson, which has excited considerable attention for a few years past, as some horticulturists have recommended it as the best of all plums, all things considered. The Jefferson is a fine variety, being large, handsome, and of first-rate quality; but we think that some have overrated it, as there are other varieties that are equally valuable. We regard it as one of the very best.

Of Capt. Amos Perry, South Natick, native grapes, which we called *Perry's Native*, several years since. This is one of the very best natives, and we seldom see its equal, among the hundreds of kinds that have been cultivated. It has much less of the acid or pungent taste, and hard pulp, for which native grapes are distinguished, and which renders them objectionable. This grape is of a fine, high flavor.

Of B. F. Cutter, Pelham, N. H., the Southwick peach. This is one of the finest varieties. It is of a large size, and handsome appearance. It was brought into favorable notice at the horticultural show at Lowell, a few years ago. From its high character, we added it to our nursery collection; and on trying the fruit we find that it sustains its high reputation. Also tomato catsup. Mr. C. manufac-

tures this article very extensively; we have occasionally tried and find it of excellent quality. It is singular in retaining very prominently the peculiar tomato flavor, while much of this preparation is disguised by too large quantities of spices and other condiments.

From Amos Clarke, Sherburne, scions of the Clarke peach, an excellent variety, of his raising, to which we gave this name when we introduced it in the American Fruit Book.

Of J. F. Hyde, Newton Centre, native grapes, rather acid, but free from the pungent or foxy taste of the wild fruit. A beautiful crab-apple, much larger than the Red or even the Yellow Siberian crab. We have no account of its habits. Seedless barberries. This is a very singular production. The berries are perfectly free from seed, and this variety is propagated by offsets. The quality is the same as the common barberry, and about as large as the common kind would be divested of its seed. As the large seeds of the barberry are a great objection, this may prove a valuable acquisition.

From Norman Porter, Berlin, Ct., half a barrel of fine apples, which are probably new in this section. Fall Spice is of a large size; roundish, but considerably flattened at the base; some specimens are slightly flattened at the top; ribbed and irregular; stem short, generally even with the base, in a narrow, deep cavity; calyx rather small, closed, in a shallow, narrow, ribbed basin; skin smooth and glossy, pale yellow, with a bright-red blush in the sun; flesh white, tender, juicy, of a fine, high, spicy, subacid flavor. In quality it ranks among our best apples. Fine, both for the dessert and for cooking. Also Baker's Sweet; quite large; roundish, moderately flattened at the base, and tapering slightly to the top; stem long and slender, in a narrow, deep cavity; calyx closed, in a narrow, deep basin; skin rough, of a rich golden yellow, marbled and dotted with specks and spots of russet; flesh yellowish, rather firm, sweet, excellent for baking. If the habits of these varieties are good as to growth and production, we should think that they would be worthy of general culture.

From Elisha Bunce, Westford, native grapes, which we believe are called *Monmouth* in Lowell and that vicinity; very large; but they smack too strong of the acidity and foxy taste too common in our native grapes.

In the notice of plums from J. C. Hewins, Dorchester, in our last, we omitted to notice that he had one peck from a scion set three years since, showing the great production which is common to Cruger's Scarlet, as we considered that variety.

NOTICES OF PUBLICATIONS.

The Agriculturist's Guide and Almanac for 1849. — We noticed this work in the summer. It is now for sale in this city by J. P. Jewett, 23 Cornhill. For a trifle the farmer gets a good almanac, and many useful hints, and in his profession; and a single item may be worth to him ten times the cost.

Descriptive Catalogue of garden seeds, cultivated and sold by Comstock, Ferry, & Co., Wethersfield, Ct. This is a work of 48 pages, containing many valuable directions for the cultivation of various plants, remarks on manures, implements, &c.

List of Premiums and rules for the second Cattle Show and Horticultural Exhibition of Maryland State Agricultural Society, to be held in Baltimore on the 10th, 11th, and 12th of October.

The (Old) Farmer's Almanac, by Robert B. Thomas, published by Jenks, Palmer & Co. — We most cheerfully welcome this familiar friend. We remember well when farmers who paid particular attention to *improvement* used to consult this work in order to ascertain what the weather would be when they were haying, harvesting, &c. It is still among the most popular annuals of this class.

Third Annual Report of the Mahoning Ohio Agricultural Society, containing also an Address on the Science of Agriculture, before the Society, in October last, by John M. Edwards, Esq.

For the New England Farmer.

STANZAS.

How pleasant 'tis to wander
When summer skies are bright,
And clouds of gorgeous beauty
Are fading into night!
Or when the moonbeams linger
On valleys gemmed with dew,
And stars are faintly shining
In yonder arch of blue!

How sweet to catch the music,
Borne by the gentle breeze,
Of streamlets softly wending
Among the shadowy trees!
All Nature smiles in beauty;
A lovely face she wears;
And for each blossom lowly
The great Creator cares.

He gives the dew and sunlight,
He gives the gentle rain,
And clothes with silken verdure
The flower-bespangled plain.
O, should we not adore Him
Who reigns in might above,
And watches o'er us ever
With tender care and love?

Lebanon, Ct., *August*, 1849. E. C. L.

TERMS. — The New England Farmer is published every other Saturday, making a neat and handsome volume, at the close of the year, of 416 pages, at $1 a year, or five copies for $4, payable in advance. It may be neatly bound at 18½ cents, or elegantly bound in muslin, embossed and gilt, at 25 cents a volume. As it is stereotyped, back numbers can be furnished to new subscribers.

☞ The Postage ☜

On this paper is only 1 cent, or 26 cents a year, within the state, or within 100 miles out of the state; and 1½ cents, or 39 cents a year, beyond those distances.

STEREOTYPED AT THE
BOSTON TYPE AND STEREOTYPE FOUNDRY.